

CHAIRMANS SPEECH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Good evening everyone to the Annual Parish meeting 2026. On behalf of the parish council I would like to welcome you all for attending

Over the past year which I must say has been quite testing due to the resignation of two clerks and a depleted number of councillors but we have since welcomed several new councillors to the council and we are nearly up to our full quota of 11. Over the past year we have worked to maintain our amenities and maintenance of our open spaces. The village has increased considerably due to the development of new sites and we welcome all newcomers who choose to reside in Walkington. Over the year we have donated a grant to the Church a sum of £3000 to help with the maintenance of the cemetery a grant of £2000 to the newsletter which is circulated to all villagers we have also helped the village hall with the maintenance of electrical equipment. Our village pond which is the Centre piece of the village has a planter which was kindly donated to us the Pc upkeeps it with winter and summer floral arrangements and also maintains the surrounding area of the pond. Work was carried out by ercc TO alleviate the flooding which regularly occurred and we also got a new boardwalk alongside the railings. The PC then had the railings painted which was long overdue. Regular landscape maintenance is now done on Redyats paddock and Townend Pit and presently will be repairing the entrance area to Friars Cope picnic area

A long-awaited grant from Community funds was successfully obtained and has enabled the Playing field committee to refurbish the children's playground; they also have other projects in place. We are fortunate to have several different organization's in the village the bowling club which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year the Age concern group that meets in the village hall every Thursday morning and is well attended the Village hall committee who run the day to day running of the hall and organize several fund raising events the playing field committee who run two successful cricket clubs social occasions on the field car boot sales The Allotments are a popular venue for residents to grow their own produce Thank you to all the volunteers who are involved in the running of these organisations

As in all communities there are challenges the main thing been in the finance sector

The Parish precept and budget are always an area of interest to residents for any one who is unfamiliar THE PRECEPT is the amount of money the PC raises through the council tax fund. Setting the budget and the precept for the year involves running costs such as maintenance insurance wages tree inspections and tree maintenance also open spaces as well as setting aside reserves for future projects the financial side of this is guided by the